

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 23, 2020

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President BEN THRELKELD belled the meeting to order at 12:30. He briefly reviewed Zoom etiquette: to speak, use the Zoom hand-raised feature, unmute yourself, when done speaking, remute yourself.



GINNY LEAR contributed to the Presidents Club in honor of ED DANGLER, who was in attendance after a long hiatus.



DUANE KALAR's

Thought for the Day addressed his 49 year Rotary membership, of which his fondest memory was helping put on a traditional (U.S.) Thanksgiving dinner for large numbers of foreign students who



were not traveling home for the holiday. Thanksgiving is his favorite holiday, being non-religious and non-political. He quoted three famous persons for their sayings, with Eleanor Roosevelt saying while a beautiful young person is a gift of nature, a beautiful old person is a work of art. John Wooden like to say he valued what you learn after you know it all, and Mark Twain chimed in frequently. DUANE longed for the day when the response to

an erroneous name or password would be "close enough"! One need not say a Thanksgiving glass is half full, or half empty, for the Thanksgiving glass is refillable.

BEN noted that a crowded schedule the prior week had not allowed time to show a video of the finalists in the YCS' Make a Difference Day and Video event, which now received its due. YCS is an acronym for Youth Community Service, a group serving middle school and high school aged students chaired by PAM KRUDOP. Thanks to PAM for this work.



Thanksgiving/Holiday Food Drive. In November and December our club is running a food drive for Project WeHope in a shelter in East Palo Alto. The need is huge. Please deposit unexpired canned and boxed food at BEN's office, 250 Cambridge Avenue, Ste. 102, Palo Alto, M-F 8:30 to 5:00. You could instead donate online.

On December 5 District 5170 will host a leadership seminar, The Science (and Art) of Leadership-for-volunteer-based organizations. John L. Lipp the presenter is back by popular demand. The course is free; register at <https://bit.ly/5170Learership>.

BEN reminded us that December 7th is our quarterly Membership Drive meeting, featuring former U. S. Ambassador to Russia and Stanford Political Science Professor Michael McFaul talking about the "Great Power Competition." Ben recalled that Membership Committee chair KAREN RHODE pointed out last week

that recruitment aids appear on the club website under Sponsor a New Member in the Member Section. So, please invite a guest. BEN promises a wine prize for the person who invites the most guests.

On December 9 Portola Valley based Neely Wine will host our virtual Holiday Party with a guided wine tasting from 5:30 to 7:00. Four wines and two cheese pairings are free to the first 45 to pick up at 250 Cambridge Avenue, Ste. 102, 8:30 to 5:00, December 7-9. Learn about Neely and enjoy the event!

BEN announced that we would participate in a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 31 at MATT DOLAN's Homewood Suites in Palo Alto in the early shift from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. The address is Palo Alto Rooms 1 and 2, Hilton Palo Alto, 4329 El Camino Real. Blood is badly needed. We also need volunteers to help check temperatures, to register donors, and to serve refreshments. Persons willing to help can notify BEN at benthrelkel@gmail.com.

Others expressing thanks were JUDITH STEINER, KLAUS HEINEMAN, ROB LANCEFIELD, and ED DANGLER (for a great grandson born two weeks ago)

Our meeting next week will hear Longtime Member Talks by CHESLEY DOUGLAS, ROMAN KAGARLITSKY and ROB LANCEFIELD.)

BE GRATEFUL FOR THE TREES

BETSY BECHTEL did the honors for our speaker, Catherine Martineau, Executive Director of Canopy since 2004. A native of France, she has lived in Menlo Park since 1989, briefly before that in San Francisco. She has gathered various impressive academic degrees along the way. She is highly qualified.



She reviewed the financial and environmental values of our tree cover and its extent, involving 230 largely non-native species,



30,000 trees managed by Palo Alto, of a total of 300,000 trees. She mentioned in particular Star Magnolias and Ginkos as beautiful species. Her ideal tree cover is 40%; Parts of Palo Alto enjoy 38%, much less in East Palo Alto. Trees provide substantial greenhouse gas benefits and water benefits, including interception and retention of groundwater runoff. They provide resiliency respecting climate change, acting as a carbon sink and lessening the urban hot spot effects. Her organization focuses on three areas: Trees (planting 20,000 in East Palo Alto to date), Education, and Advocacy. A lengthy Q&A session evoked authoritative responses.